

The Governor's Office of Community Service Staff Analysis

And recommendation For 2011 AmeriCorps Competitive Applications

Provided to the Grant Review Workgroup on November 30th 2011

Staff completed the following analysis for each applicant based on whether they are a new applicant or a previously funded AmeriCorps Applicant. This information is provided to the grant review workgroup to assist them in determining a final ranking. This information does not affect the applicant's application score.

Applicant: **Montana Conservation Corps**

Federal Request: \$1,872,000

Total Match: \$3,099,913

Match %: 62%

Risk Assessment: Less than 10 Points – Low Risk (2 points)

	Current Grant ('10)	Revised Request ('11)	Difference
Federal Funds	\$1,872,000	\$1,872,000	\$0
Cash Match	\$2,605,598	\$3,099,913	\$494,315
In-Kind Match	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Match	\$2,605,598	\$3,099,913	\$494,315
Match %	58%	62%	4%
Project Cost	\$4,477,598	\$4,971,913	\$494,315
MSY:	144.00	144.00	0.00
Cost per MSY:	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$0

PAST PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

[2009 Grant \(Ends 12/31/10\)](#)

Enrollment Rate: 102.5%

Retention Rate: 89.3%

Enrollments Completed within 30 Days: 100%

Exits Completed within 30 Days: 100%

Performance Measures Success:	Output	Intermediate Outcome	End Outcome
Conserve Public Lands and Trails	Met	Met	Met
Develop Leaders	Met	Met	Met
Foster Citizen Involvement	Met	Met	-
Mobilize Youth Volunteers	UnMet	Met	-
Rehabilitate and Weatherize Homes and Structures	Met	Met	-

Note: Unmet Output - Much of MCC's volunteer generation capacity was included in their ARRA grant. They enrolled all youth crew leaders in that grant so over 500 volunteers could not be counted. Overall MCC engaged about 1500 volunteers which is about twice their normal number.

Summary of the Program's Service Activities

- I. Environment Stewardship
 - a. 854 miles of trail constructed/maintained
 - b. 3764 acres of habitat conserved
 - c. 36.5 miles of fencing improved
 - d. 13.5 miles of stream restored
 - e. 43,000 trees planted
- II. Member Development
 - a. 202 members trained
 - b. 51% of members reported a significant improvement in their leadership skills and values on the program evaluation due to their MCC experience
 - c. 81% of members reported a significant improvement in their knowledge and skills of service and citizen involvement
- III. Expand and Promote Volunteerism
 - a. 944 volunteers recruited and engaged in service
 - b. 582 youth volunteers
 - c. Overall (including ARRA grant) MCC engaged about 1500 volunteers which is about twice their normal number
- IV. Rehabilitate and Weatherize Homes and Structures
 - a. 2,013 homes/public structures constructed, rehabilitated, weatherized

Program Strengths which Complement the Commission's Portfolio and State Service Plan

MCC is not requesting an increase to their cost per MSY in 2011. In addition, they are not requesting an increase in CNCS funds, however they are increasing their contribution by approximately \$500,000.

Program Challenges

- I. Managing the ARRA and AmeriCorps State Grant
 - a. Some performance measurements were challenged when the accomplishments were split between two grants

Ability to Meet Match

The program has a history of meeting their required and budgeted match amounts, which for 2009 is 50% and 59.39% respectively. Based on the last financial report (11/15/10) they are on target to meet their match amounts.

Programmatic Compliance

Enrollment Rate: The program enrolled 100% of their base and refill slots for an enrollment rate of 102.5% during 2009.

Retention Rate: The programs retention rate as of 11/17/10 is 89.3%.

This marks an improvement over MCC's usual 80-85% rate. Plausible explanations for this improvement offered through progress reports were the state of the economy, better initial recruitment screening, and other program changes.

Plans for improvement need to be included in the 2011-2012 narrative as their retention rate fell below 90% after submitting the application.

Performance and progress toward impact Success: The Montana Conservation Corps met all but one of their performance measurements. They fell short of their desired Output for Mobilizing Youth Volunteers: 1000 volunteers, including 600 youth will serve over 18,000 hours (target value 1000).

944 total, 582 youth volunteers were recruited. Montana Conservation Corps volunteer generation capacity was included in their ARRA grant and due to administrative functions; they enrolled all our youth crew leaders in that grant so over 500 volunteers cannot be counted here. Overall the MCC engaged about 1500 volunteers which is about twice their normal number. They should have no trouble meeting this goal next year when all numbers will be reported under one grant.

Deadlines

Compliance Findings: No significant compliance findings were made during the year

Enrollments/Exits Completed within 30 Days: 100% of MCC members were enrolled and exited within the 30 day requirement.

Reporting Deadlines: All reporting deadlines have been met during the 2009 grant cycle.

Staff Summary:

- Plans for improvement need to be included in the 2011-2012 narrative as their retention rate fell below 90% after submitting the application.

Staff Recommendation: Staff Recommends Competitive funding of \$1,872,000 for Montana Conservation Corps, this is the full amount requested.